(b) Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated weaponary from USA results regrettably in the diversion oi' our resources from development to defence. Government continues to maintain a constant vigil over all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Military relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka

336. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing military relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government are keeping a constant watch on the situation and all appropriate steps to safeguard India's interests would be taken as and when required.

Irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh

337. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there arc about 490 irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh, which violate the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in that regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESIS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Violations ofthe Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have come to notice of the Central Government in to irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh:

(b) The Central Government have communicated to all the State and Union Territory Governments that diversion of forest land will not be approved in regard to projects in which the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been violated. Diversion of forest lands in. regard to 8 irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh involving violation ofthe Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 has not been approved.

Escape of Charles Sobhraj from Tihar Jail

338. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the circumstances under which Charles Sobhraj and six other criminals escaped from Tihar Jail on March 16, 1986;

(b) what action has been taken against the jail authorities responsible for their escape:

(c) what precautionary measures have been taken to prevent such escape in future;:

(d) whether any foreign hand and foreign nationals are involved in planning the escape of Charles Sobhraj and others; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the foreign nationals involved in helping Charles Sobhraj and what action Government have taken'to prevent foreign nationals visiting jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) On the afternoon of 16-3-86 Charles Sobhraj escaped with 6 other jail detenues of whom five were